

Chris O'Brien

From: Tess Gabert <gabert.tess@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Chris O'Brien
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Subject: Testimony for 7/22 House Committee on Finance - Please Close the ACI High Security Center

Dear House Finance Committee Representatives,

My name is Tess Gabert and I am a constituent of Rhode Island. I live at 546 Hope St, Providence, RI 02906.

I demand that you take action to **close the ACI High Security Center**. While the Governor's current budget proposes closing two modules within High Security, this budget plan needs to go further and completely close the High Security Center outright.

I am a student in the healthcare field and I want to dedicate my life to serving those with mental health and developmental differences. Did you know that the ACLU and Disability Rights Rhode Island estimate that approximately 100 ACI inmates with mental illness are in solitary confinement each year ([link](#))? Not only is solitary confinement a violation of the UN's Mandela Rules, but the fact that guards feel this is what they have to do to inmates, and especially those with mental illness, highlights the fact that the prison system is not equipped to care for and in fact deeply harmful to the most vulnerable members of the Providence community.

By permanently closing High Security, Rhode Island could re-allocate these funds to desperately needed community services! I hope that, particularly in the context of a pandemic, it is evident how, instead of punishment, what this city needs is **investment in resources of flourishing**: in housing, education, physical and mental health, and food to name a few. Please listen to your constituents.

I hope that the House Finance Committee will take bold action in fully closing the ACI High Security Center.

Thank you,
Tess Gabert
546 Hope St,
Providence, RI 02906.